

REMARKS

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is attached. Some of the references listed are in a non-English language. These references were cited in a Russian Examination Report, a translation of which is attached. As indicated by the M.P.E.P., “[w]here the information listed is not in the English language, but was cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance can be satisfied by submitting an English language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.” M.P.E.P. § 609.04(a) (2d ed., Rev. 3), at 600-148.

In the Office Action dated January 13, 2006, claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,917,160 (Bailey) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,173,773 (Almaguer); claims 22-24 were rejected under § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,274,816 (Kendall); and claims 22-24 and 26 were rejected under § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 4,389,645 (Wharton).

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 2-5, 9-13, 15-19, 27-29, and 39-41.

Independent claim 8 has been amended to recite that the modulator comprises a reflective device and an element to modulate light reflected from the reflective device to the fiber optic line. This feature is not disclosed or suggested by Bailey or Almaguer, and therefore, claim 8 is non-obvious over Bailey and Almaguer.

Independent claim 22 has been amended to add a sensor coupled to the fiber optic line, and a modulator to modulate optical signals to represent a well characteristic detected by the sensor, where the modulator comprises a reflective device and an element to modulate light reflected from the reflective device to the fiber optic line.

Neither Wharton nor Kendall discloses or suggests the added features, and therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 22 is non-obvious over the cited references.

Dependent claims, including newly added dependent claims 42 and 43, are allowable for at least the same reasons as corresponding independent claims.

In view of the allowability of generic claim 8, rejoinder and allowance of dependent claim 14 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (SHL.0233US).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dan C. Hu
Registration No. 40,025
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.
8554 Katy Freeway, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77024
Telephone: (713) 468-8880
Facsimile: (713) 468-8883